December, 1987, called for an increase in the Union Government's allocation for education; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and to the other suggestions of the conference, namely, that private sector and philanthropy be encouraged to support higher education by liberalising tax exemption policy of the Government in respect thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The National Policy on Education-1986 envisages that the investment on education be gradually increased to reach a level of expenditure of 6 per cent of National Income as early as possible. The outlay for education in the VII Plan is being stepped up considerably. While considering the question of mobilising resources for education, the suggestion that liberalised tax exemption policy would encourage support to higher education by the private sector and philanthropy would also be kept in view.

Indian monkeys infected with in AIDS like virus

896. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be plaesed to state:

(a) whether biologists have found Indian monkeys infected with an AIDS like virus called the Simian Immuno deficiency Virus (SIV); and

(b) if so, what are the details of the findings of the biologists in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) and (b) Yes, National Institute of Virology, Pune has reported that Antibodies to Simian immuno deficiency Virus has been detected in some Indian monkeys. Further investigations regarding Simian Immuno deficiency Virus infection in Indian monkeys are on.

Construction of Rail lines by SIDC and by States and Central Government Jointly

897. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some railway lines in the country are being constructed by State Industrial Development Corporations and some jointly by the States and the Central Government and if so, the details of such projects, State-wise and cost-wise;

(b) what are the criteria adopted in such cases by the Railway Board and the guidelines for the agency that carry out the work;

(c) whether State Governments have been sounded to recommend and propose railway projects of their choice and priority, to be considered by Railway Board; and

(d) whether there is any proposal for new railway projects in the joint sector in Gujarat State, if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir. The under-mentioned rail lines are presently being constructed at the cost of State Industrial Development Corporations or